

# STRANGER THINGS

**#209**

**THE GATE**

**Eleven makes plans to finish what she started while the survivors turn up the heat on the monstrous force that's holding Will hostage.**

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Mike and Eleven walk towards each other.

MIKE: Eleven.

ELEVEN: Mike.

The pair share a tight hug, both crying. Lucas, Dustin and Max watch Mike and Eleven.

MAX: Is that...

Lucas and Dustin nod. Mike and Eleven pull away from each other.

MIKE: I never gave up on you. I called you every night. Every night for-

ELEVEN: 353 days.

Mike looks confused and a little hurt.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): I heard.

MIKE: Why didn't you tell me you were there? That you were okay?

HOPPER (O.S.): Because I wouldn't let her.

Mike turns to look at Hopper. As Hopper walks over, Mike moves out of the way.

HOPPER (CONT'D): The hell is this? Where have you been?

ELEVEN: Where have you been?

Hopper puts his arm around Eleven and pulls her in for a one-armed hug. He kisses her head. Mike has a realisation.

MIKE: You've been hiding her. You've been hiding her this whole time!

Mike pushes Hopper's back, making Hopper turn around.

HOPPER: Hey, hey!

Hopper grabs Mike's shirt.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Let's talk. Alone.

Hopper and Mike walk away. Eleven puts her hands in her pockets and sighs.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – WILL'S ROOM – NIGHT**

Mike and Hopper walk in.

MIKE: Protecting her! Protecting her?

HOPPER: Listen. Listen to me.

Hopper closes the door behind them, looking at Mike.

HOPPER (CONT'D): The more people know about her, the more danger she's in.

Hopper sets his gun down against a wall.

HOPPER (CONT'D): And the more danger you and your family are in-

MIKE: Oh, what, so I should be thanking you, then?

Hopper walks over to Mike.

HOPPER: I'm not asking you to thank me! I'm asking you to try and understand.

MIKE: I don't! I don't understand!

HOPPER: That's fine! That's fine! Just do not blame her! All right? She's upset enough as it is.

MIKE: I don't blame her! I blame you! I blame you!

HOPPER: That's okay, kid. That's okay.

MIKE: No! Nothing about this is okay! Nothing about this is okay!

Mike pushes Hopper.

HOPPER: Oh, geez-

Mike starts to push Hopper toward the door, hitting him in the stomach.

MIKE: You're stupid, disgusting...

HOPPER: Okay. All right!

MIKE: Lying piece of shit!

HOPPER: Stop it.

Hopper's back hits the door. Mike continues to hit him.

MIKE: Liar!

HOPPER: Stop it.

MIKE: Liar! Liar!

HOPPER: It's okay.

Hopper holds Mike in an effort to stop him. Mike starts to cry.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Stop it! Stop it!

MIKE: Liar! Liar!

Hopper holds Mike as he cries.

HOPPER: You're okay, kid. You're okay. I'm sorry, kid.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Eleven hugs Lucas and Dustin.

LUCAS: We missed you.

ELEVEN: I missed you, too.

DUSTIN: We talked about you pretty much every day.

Eleven lets go of Lucas and Dustin. She looks at Dustin with a slightly confused look, before she reaches out and pulls his bottom lip down slightly. He pulls away, confused.

ELEVEN: Teeth.

DUSTIN: What?

ELEVEN: You have teeth.

Dustin grins. He looks at Lucas, who smiles. Dustin looks at Eleven.

DUSTIN: Oh. You like these pearls?

Dustin purrs, catching Eleven off guard. Lucas gives Dustin a “seriously?” look.

MAX: Eleven?

Max walks up to the trio, smiling at Eleven. Eleven looks annoyed to see her.

MAX (CONT'D): Hey. Um, I'm Max.

Max holds her hand out.

MAX (CONT'D): I've heard a lot about you.

Eleven doesn't say anything, pushing past Max without even looking down at her hand. Eleven walks up to Joyce and hugs her. Joyce holds Eleven tightly as she cries.

JOYCE: Hey. Hey, sweetheart.

Eleven pulls away. Joyce smiles at her.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Hey.

ELEVEN: Can I see him?

Joyce sighs.

#### **INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – JONATHAN'S ROOM – NIGHT**

Will lays on Jonathan's bed. Eleven slowly pushes open the door and walks in, kneeling beside the bed and looking at Will. Joyce walks in after her, sitting on the edge of the bed.

JOYCE: He's not doing well.

Eleven puts her hand on Will's shoulder.

ELEVEN: I know. I saw.

JOYCE: What else did you see?

Eleven looks at Joyce before looking back at Will.

#### **INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – NIGHT**

Eleven and Joyce stand at the kitchen table, looking at the 'CLOSE GATE' written on the back of the notepad. Joyce has a realisation.

JOYCE (CONT'D): You opened this Gate before, right?

ELEVEN: Yes.

Max, Lucas, Dustin, Steve, Jonathan, and Nancy notice Joyce and Eleven in the kitchen and start to walk over, standing in the hallway between the kitchen and the lounge room.

JOYCE: Do you think if we...if we got you back there, that...that you could close it?

Eleven looks at Joyce before looking forward. She takes a deep breath.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Particles fill the air. Demodogs crowd the area below the Gate. One of the demodogs looks up to the sky and screeches.

Cut to black.

**MAIN TITLES.**

**CHAPTER NINE: THE GATE.**

**INT. WHEELER HOUSE – MAIN BATHROOM – NIGHT**

Karen sits in the bath, reading Heart of Thunder by Johanna Lindsey. Lit candles line the bath, and 'The Way We Were' by Barbra Streisand plays.

BARBRA STREISAND (ON RADIO): (singing) Memories...light the corners of my mind...

The doorbell rings. Karen looks in its direction briefly before looking back at her book.

BARBRA STREISAND (CONT'D)(ON RADIO): (singing) Misty water-coloured memories...

The doorbell rings again. Karen sighs.

BARBRA STREISAND (CONT'D)(ON RADIO): (singing) Of the way we were...

KAREN: Ted! Would you please get that?

**INT. WHEELER HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Ted snores on the recliner, asleep. The doorbell rings again.

**INT. WHEELER HOUSE – MAIN BATHROOM – NIGHT**

KAREN (CONT'D): Ted!

BARBRA STREISAND (ON RADIO): (singing) Of the smiles we left behind...

The doorbell rings rapidly. Karen sighs and closes her book, setting it on the small counter behind her and getting out of the bath.

**INT. WHEELER HOUSE – FOYER – NIGHT**

The doorbell rings rapidly. Karen runs down the stairs, fixing her robe as she walks towards the door.

KAREN: Hold on, please.

Karen opens the front door to find Billy standing outside. Billy gives a flirty smile.

BILLY: Oh. Hi.

KAREN: Hi.

BILLY: I, uh, didn't realise Nancy had a sister.

Karen chuckles, blushing.

BILLY (CONT'D): What's so funny?

KAREN: I'm Nancy's mother.

BILLY: No.

KAREN: Yes.

BILLY: Mrs. Wheeler.

KAREN: Um, I'm sorry, and you are?

BILLY: Billy.

Billy sticks his hand out. Karen takes it.

BILLY (CONT'D): Billy Hargrove.

Billy puts his other hand on top of Karen's.

KAREN: You must be here for Nancy.

BILLY: Nancy? No, no, no. Not my type. Uh...no, actually, I am looking for my little sister Max. Goes by Maxine. She's been missing all day, and, uh, to be honest with you, I've been worried sick, you know, so...

KAREN: Oh.

BILLY: I thought she was at Lucas', but Mrs. Sinclair said your house is the...the designated hangout, so, you know...

Billy puts his arm against the door frame.

BILLY (CONT'D): Here I am.

**INT. WHEELER HOUSE – KITCHEN – NIGHT**

Karen writes down the Byers address on a notepad.

KAREN: Their driveway is pretty dark this time of night.

Karen rips the sheet from the notepad and hands it out to Billy.

KAREN (CONT'D): So drive slowly.

Billy takes the piece of paper.

BILLY: Always.

KAREN: And when you see Mike, tell him to come home already, okay?

BILLY: You're a real lifesaver, you know that?

Billy takes a bite of a biscuit. Karen smiles.

KAREN: Anytime.

BILLY: I'll see you later.

Billy walks out of the kitchen and towards the front door. Karen bites her lip as she watches him leave.

KAREN: Hmm.

**EXT. WHEELER HOUSE – FRONT YARD – NIGHT**

Billy gets into his car and turns it on. He speeds away from the Wheeler house.

**EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – NIGHT**

Hopper sighs.

HOPPER (O.S.): It's not like it was before. It's grown.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – NIGHT**

Joyce sits at the kitchen table. Everyone else stands around it. Hopper and Mike stand by the sink.

HOPPER (CONT'D): A lot. And, I mean, that's considering we can get in there. The place is crawling with those dogs.

Dustin turns to look at Hopper.

DUSTIN: Demodogs.

HOPPER: I'm sorry, what?

DUSTIN: I said, uh, demodogs. Like Demogorgon and dogs. Like, you put them together, it sounds pretty badass-

HOPPER: How is this important right now?

DUSTIN: It's not. I'm sorry.

Dustin looks away. Eleven looks at Hopper.

ELEVEN: I can do it.

Everyone looks at Eleven.

HOPPER: You're not hearing me.

ELEVEN: I'm hearing you. I can do it.

MIKE: Even if El can, there's still another problem. If the brain dies, the body dies.

MAX: I thought that was the whole point.

MIKE: It is, but if we're really right about this...I mean, if El closes the Gate and kills the Mind Flayer's army...

LUCAS: Will's a part of that army.

MIKE: Closing the Gate will kill him.

Joyce sits, thinking. An idea crosses her face.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – JONATHAN'S ROOM – NIGHT**

Will lays on the bed. Joyce walks into the room, followed by the others. She looks at Will before looking over at the open window, a breeze coming through.

JOYCE: He likes it cold.

HOPPER: What?

JOYCE: It's what Will kept saying to me. He likes it cold.

Joyce walks over to the window and shuts it before turning back to the group.

JOYCE (CONT'D): We keep giving it what it wants.

NANCY: If this is a virus, and Will's the host, then...

JONATHAN: Then we need to make the host uninhabitable.

NANCY: So if he likes it cold...

JOYCE: We need to burn it out of him.

MIKE: We have to do it somewhere he doesn't know this time.

DUSTIN: Yeah, somewhere far away.

An idea crosses Hopper's face.

**EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – NIGHT**

Jonathan, Hopper, and Joyce walk outside and head towards Jonathan's car. Hopper carries Will, who's wrapped in a blanket.

HOPPER: Take Denfield, then you'll see a large oak tree. You're gonna swing a right. That road is gonna dead-end. And it's about a five minute walk from there.

Jonathan opens the passenger door, panting. Hopper sets Will down on the seat.

JONATHAN: Okay. Denfield to oak tree. Swing a right. That's it. But it's channel ten, right?

Jonathan shuts the door.

HOPPER: It's channel ten. Listen...you let me know when that thing is out of him.

Hopper walks away and back towards the house.

**EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – BACK YARD – NIGHT**

Nancy and Steve walk up to the pile of stuff Hopper created earlier, trying to find things that can be used. Steve picks up a small heater before continuing with the pile.

STEVE: You should go with him.

NANCY: What?

STEVE: With Jonathan.



Steve bends down and picks up a ball of Christmas lights.

NANCY: No, I'm...

Nancy scoffs. Steve tosses the Christmas lights aside.

NANCY (CONT'D): I'm not just gonna leave Mike.

Nancy bends down to pick up a large cage fan.

STEVE: No one's leaving anyone.

Nancy lifts the cage fan up. Steve walks over and grabs the heater from underneath it.

STEVE (CONT'D): I may be a pretty shitty boyfriend, but...

Nancy drops the cage fan.

STEVE (CONT'D): Turns out I'm actually a pretty damn good babysitter.

Steve holds the heater out to Nancy. She reluctantly takes it.

NANCY: Steve...

STEVE: It's okay, Nance. It's okay.

NANCY: I...

Steve walks away, leaving Nancy alone as he heads back to the house.

MIKE (O.S.): Just be careful, all right?

**EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – NIGHT**

Mike and Eleven stand on the porch. Tears sit on Mike's cheeks.

MIKE (CONT'D): I can't lose you again.

Eleven shakes her head.

ELEVEN: You won't lose me.

MIKE: Do you promise?

ELEVEN: Promise.

Eleven slowly leans forward to kiss Mike.

HOPPER (O.S.): El...

Eleven turns to see Hopper standing outside his truck, looking at them.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Come on, let's go. It's time.

Eleven turns back to Mike. She sighs deeply. Mike nods.

MIKE: Okay.

Hopper and Eleven get into Hopper's truck. Nancy, Joyce, and Jonathan get into Jonathan's car. Jonathan and Hopper reverse in opposite directions to turn around, before they drive down the driveway away from the house.

**INT. HOPPER'S TRUCK**

Eleven turns to look through the back window of Hopper's truck, seeing Mike, Dustin, Steve, Lucas, and Max standing on the porch, watching the cars drive off.

**EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – NIGHT**

Mike, Dustin, Steve, Lucas, and Max stand on the porch, watching as the cars drive off.

**EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT**

Hopper's truck drives along the road.

**INT. HOPPER'S TRUCK**

Eleven looks out the window, looking sad.

HOPPER: So, what, we're just not gonna talk about it, huh?

Eleven looks at Hopper.

ELEVEN: About what?

HOPPER: Oh, I don't know. I'm just curious, you know, why all of a sudden you look like some kind of MTV punk.

Eleven looks out the window.

HOPPER (CONT'D): I'm not mad, kid. I just want to know where you've been. That's all.

ELEVEN: To see Mama.

Multiple expressions cross Hopper's face at once.

HOPPER: Okay. How'd you get there?

ELEVEN: A truck.

HOPPER: A truck?

Eleven looks at Hopper.

ELEVEN: A big truck.

HOPPER: A big truck? Whose truck was it?

ELEVEN: A man's.

HOPPER: A man's?

Eleven looks forward.

ELEVEN: A nice man.

HOPPER: Okay. So let me just get this straight in my head. So a nice man in a big truck, he drove you to your mama's, and then what? Your...your Aunt Becky gave you those clothes and that makeup?

ELEVEN: I...

Eleven looks at Hopper.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): I shouldn't have left.

HOPPER: Mmm-mmm. No. No, this isn't on you, kid.

Eleven looks forward. Tears well in her eyes.

HOPPER (CONT'D): I should've been there. I should never have lied to you about your mum. Or about when you could leave. A lot of things I shouldn't have done. Sometimes I feel like I'm...

Hopper inhales sharply.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Like I'm just some kind of black hole or something.

Eleven looks at Hopper. A tear rolls down her cheek.

ELEVEN: A black hole?

HOPPER: Yeah, it's a...you know, it's this thing in outer space.

Eleven looks forward.

HOPPER (CONT'D): It's like, it sucks everything towards it and destroys it. Sara had a picture book about outer space. She loved it.

Eleven looks at Hopper.

ELEVEN: Who's Sara?

HOPPER: Sara? Sara's my girl. She's my little girl.

ELEVEN: Where is she?

HOPPER: Well, that's kind of the thing, kid. She, uh...she left us.

Eleven looks forward.

ELEVEN: Gone.

HOPPER: Yeah. The black hole. It got her. And somehow...I've just been scared, you know? I've just been scared that it would take you, too.

Eleven looks at Hopper.

HOPPER (CONT'D): I think that's why I get...so mad. I'm so sorry. For everything. I could be so...so...

ELEVEN: Stupid?

Hopper chuckles.

HOPPER: Yeah. Stupid.

Eleven chuckles, looking forward.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Just really stupid.

Eleven looks at Hopper and touches his arm. He moves his arm so that she can hold his hand.

ELEVEN: I've been stupid, too.

HOPPER: I guess we broke our rule.

Eleven gives a small chuckle, smiling.

HOPPER (CONT'D): I don't hate it, by the way. This whole...

Hopper moves his hand up and down in the air to gesture to Eleven.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Look.

Eleven smiles, looking forward.

HOPPER (CONT'D): It's kinda cool.

ELEVEN: Bitchin'.

Hopper smiles.

HOPPER: Okay. Sure. Bitchin'.

Eleven chuckles, wiping her tears away. She sniffles.

#### **EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT**

Hopper's car drives along, heading towards Hawkins Lab. The camera pans up above the trees, and we see Hawkins Lab lit up in the distance. Demodogs screech.

#### **INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – NIGHT**

Dustin pulls everything out of the fridge, dumping them on the ground next to him.

DUSTIN: All right. It should fit now.

Dustin looks at Steve, who stands behind him holding the demodog, which is wrapped in a blanket. Steve stares at the fridge.

STEVE: Is this really necessary?

DUSTIN: Yes, it is, okay? This is a ground breaking scientific discovery. We can't just bury it like some common mammal, okay? It's not a dog.

STEVE: All right, all right, all right.

Steve walks towards the fridge. Dustin moves out of the way.

STEVE (CONT'D): But you're explaining this to Mrs. Byers, all right?

Steve puts the demodog into the fridge, its head hitting the outside.

STEVE (CONT'D): Christ. Help me out.

Steve moves the demodog around to put it in better.

DUSTIN: What am I supposed to do?

STEVE: Get the door, man. The door.

Dustin grabs the door.

DUSTIN: All right, I got the door.

Steve pulls away from the demodog, slime on his arm.

STEVE: Ew. Jesus-

DUSTIN: God-

Steve and Dustin slam the door closed. It rocks slightly from the force before stilling. They both pant.  
Steve rubs Dustin's head.

STEVE: Phew!

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Max and Lucas work together to sweep up the broken glass, Max bending down and holding the dustpan and Lucas using a broom to sweep. Mike paces the room. Lucas looks at him and stops sweeping. Max looks up at Lucas, confused, before she follows his gaze to Mike.

LUCAS: Mike, would you please stop already?

MIKE: You weren't in there, okay, Lucas? That lab is swarming with hundreds of those dogs.

Dustin pokes his head around the corner.

DUSTIN: Demodogs!

Mike looks at Dustin and sighs.

LUCAS: The chief will take care of her.

MAX: Like she needs protection.

Steve and Dustin walk into the lounge room.

STEVE: Listen, dude, a coach calls a play in a game, bottom line, you execute it. All right?

MIKE: Okay, first of all, this isn't some stupid sports game. And second of all, we're not even in the game. We're on the bench.

STEVE: Right, so my point is...

Steve trails off. The Kids look at him expectantly.

STEVE (CONT'D): Right, yeah, we're on the bench, so, uh, there's nothing we can do.

DUSTIN: That's not entirely true. I mean, these demodogs, they have a hive mind. When they ran away from the bus, they were called away.

LUCAS: So if we get their attention...

MAX: Maybe we can draw them away from the lab.

MIKE: And clear a path to the Gate.

STEVE: Yeah, and then we all die.

DUSTIN: Well that's one point of view.

Mike notices something and has a realisation.

STEVE: No, that's not a point of view, man. That's a fact.

Mike pushes past Steve and Dustin.

MIKE: I got it!

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – NIGHT**

Mike walks over to the fridge and bends down in front of the drawings that represent of the tunnels underneath the pumpkin patch at Merrill's Farm. The others follow him.

MIKE (CONT'D): This is where the chief dug his hole. This is our way into the tunnels. So...

Mike walks back towards the lounge room.

MIKE (CONT'D): Here, right here. This is like a hub.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Mike walks into the room and stands on the drawings that represent the Hub. The others follow him.

MIKE (CONT'D): So you got all the tunnels feeding in here.

Mike kneels at the edge of the drawings.

MIKE (CONT'D): Maybe if we set this on fire...

STEVE: Oh, yeah? That's a no.

DUSTIN: The Mind Flayer would call away his army.

LUCAS: They'd all come to stop us.

STEVE: Hey.

MIKE: Then we circle back to the exit.

STEVE: Guys.

MIKE: By the time they realise we're gone-

STEVE: Hey.

MAX: El would be at the Gate.

Steve claps his hands to get the Kids' attention.

STEVE: Hey. Hey! Hey!

The Kids look at him.

STEVE (CONT'D): This is not happening.

MIKE: But-

STEVE: No, no, no, no, no. Not buts. I promised I'd keep you shitheads safe, and that's exactly what I plan on doing. We're staying here. On the bench. And we're waiting for the starting team to do their job. Does everybody understand that?

MIKE: This isn't a stupid sports game.

STEVE: I said does everybody understand that? I need a yes.

The sound of an engine revving outside makes everyone turn to look outside. Max runs over to look out the window, joined by Lucas. Steve, Dustin, and Mike stand further back, looking through the other window from a distance. They see Billy's car pulling up the driveway.

MAX: It's my brother. He can't know I'm here. He'll kill me. He'll kill us.

Steve looks from Max to out the window, Billy's car's headlights shining on his face. A look of uncertainty crosses Steve's face as he thinks over what he has to do, before he looks up at the car with a determined look.

**EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – NIGHT**

Billy's car pulls up and he parks it, turning the car off. He opens the door and steps out, putting his hand on the roof of his car. Steve stands at the edge of the porch, hands on his hips as he stares at Billy.

BILLY: Am I dreaming, or is that you, Harrington?

STEVE: Yeah, it's me. Don't cream your pants.

Billy pulls his jacket off and tosses it in the car, slamming the door and walking towards Steve. Steve walks towards Billy.

BILLY: What are you doing here, amigo?

STEVE: Yeah, I could ask you the same thing.

Steve and Billy meet in the middle.

STEVE (CONT'D): Amigo.

BILLY: Looking for my stepsister. A little birdie told me she was here.

STEVE: Huh, that's weird. I don't know her.

BILLY: Small? Redhead? Bit of a bitch.

STEVE: Doesn't ring a bell. Sorry, buddy.

BILLY: You know, I don't know, this...this whole situation, Harrington, I don't know. It's giving me the heebie-jeebies.

STEVE: Oh, yeah? Why's that?

BILLY: My 13-year-old sister goes missing all day. And then I find her with you in a stranger's house. And you lie to me about it.

Steve chuckles.

STEVE: Man, were you dropped too much as a child, or what?

Billy chuckles.

STEVE (CONT'D): I don't know what you don't understand about what I just said. She's not here.

Billy points his cigarette in the direction of the lounge room window.

BILLY: Then who is that?

Steve turns his head to see Mike, Dustin, Lucas, and Max staring at them through the window.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

The Kids quickly duck down.

DUSTIN: Shit! Did he see us?

**EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – NIGHT**

STEVE: Oh, shit. Listen-

Steve turns back to Billy. Billy pushes him, catching him off guard and making him fall to the ground. Billy stares down at Steve.

BILLY: I told you to plant your feet.

Steve starts to push himself up only to be kicked in the stomach by Billy. Steve groans.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Max, Lucas, Mike, and Dustin stand away from the door, looking at it. Billy slams it open.

BILLY: Well, well, well.

Billy slams the door and starts walking towards Lucas.

BILLY (CONT'D): Lucas Sinclair. What a surprise.

Billy looks at Max.

BILLY (CONT'D): I thought I told you to stay away from him, Max.

MAX: Billy, go away.

BILLY: You disobeyed me. And you know what happens when you disobey me.

MAX: Billy...

BILLY: I break things.

Billy grabs Lucas and starts pushing him towards a kitchen wall. The Kids start yelling.

MAX: Billy! Stop! Let go! Billy! Stop!

MIKE: Lucas!

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – NIGHT**

Billy pushes Lucas into a cabinet, making things fall down.

LUCAS: Get off me, you-

BILLY: Since Maxine won't listen to me, maybe you will. You stay away from her. Stay away from her! You hear me?

LUCAS: I said get off me!



Lucas kicks Billy in the groin, making him groan and let go as he backs away slightly. Billy looks at Lucas, angry.

BILLY: You are so dead, Sinclair! You're dead.

Steve comes around the corner, pulling Billy away.

STEVE: No. You are.

Steve punches Billy, making him groan. Dustin grins, chuckling.

MAX: Steve!

Billy turns back to Steve, laughing. Lucas walks back to the others, who clutch onto him tightly to protect him.

BILLY: Looks like you got some fire in you after all, huh? I've been waiting to meet this King Steve everyone's been telling me so much about.

Steve gently pushes Billy back.

STEVE: Get out.

Billy swings a punch at Steve, which he dodges. Steve lands a punch on Billy, knocking him into the kitchen table.

DUSTIN: Yes! Kick his ass, Steve!

Billy looks back up, laughing. Steve punches him again, this time into the side sink.

MIKE: Get him!

DUSTIN: Murder the son of a bitch!

Steve punches Billy again, this time into the far sink.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Now! Now!

MIKE: Get that shithead!

Billy looks at Steve, laughing.

DUSTIN: Kill the son of a bitch! Kick his ass, Steve!

Billy grabs a plate from beside the sink and smashes it over Steve's head. Steve groans.

LUCAS: Steve!

MAX: Billy!

Steve stumbles away, touching his forehead.

MIKE: Holy shit!

Billy walks over to Steve. Dustin realises he's going to punch and ducks.

DUSTIN: Shit!

Billy punches Steve just as he stands up straight, hitting his fists into the shelf. Steve backs away from Billy and into the lounge room, touching his head.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Billy stalks towards Steve. He grabs Steve by the collar and holds him upright. Steve tries to push him away, weaker than before.

BILLY: No one tells me what to do!

Billy grunts as he hits Steve with his head. Steve groans, falling to the floor and sliding a little.

BILLY (CONT'D): Whoo! Get up!

Billy walks over to Steve and pulls him onto his back, kneeling over him. The kids start yelling.

DUSTIN: You're gonna kill him.

Billy starts to punch Steve, over and over again. Billy yells, but it's inaudible. The kids yell, but it's inaudible. Max looks to the right and sees the vial and syringe used to sedate Will. She grabs the syringe, taking off the cover, before pushing past Lucas and Mike. She stomps towards Billy and stabs him in the neck with the syringe. He stops punching Steve, taken off guard. The boys stop yelling, surprised. Billy stands up and turns to look at Max. His vision starts to blur. He reaches up and takes the syringe out of his neck and starts walking towards Max.

BILLY: The hell is this? (echoing) You little shit, what did you do?

Billy starts to tilt.

BILLY (CONT'D): What did you do?

Billy falls onto his back.

MIKE: Shit.

Billy laughs. Max looks over at Steve's bat and walks towards it, picking it up. She stands in front of Billy, holding the bat up.

MAX: From here on out, you leave me and my friends alone. Do you understand?

BILLY: Screw you.

Max swings the bat down. It hits the floor just below Billy's crotch. He lifts his head up to look. Max rips the bat out of the floor and holds it up.

MAX: Say you understand! Say it! Say it!

BILLY: I understand.

MAX: What?

BILLY: I understand.

Billy passes out. Max drops the bat. She walks over and grabs Billy's keys out of his pocket, looking back at the boys and holding them up.

MAX: Let's get out of here.

The boys share looks.

**EXT. HOPPER'S CABIN – FRONT YARD – NIGHT**

Jonathan's car pulls up. Nancy, Joyce, and Jonathan walk towards the cabin, Nancy and Joyce both carrying heaters and Jonathan carrying Will.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Nancy pushes open the door, finding the light switch and turning the lights on. She walks into the cabin, followed by Joyce and Jonathan. Nancy and Joyce walk around, looking at things. Jonathan sees the couch and lays Will down on it.

NANCY: It's actually kinda nice.

Joyce finds the fireplace and bends down in front of it. She looks back at Nancy and Jonathan.

JOYCE: We'll do it here.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Joyce and Jonathan move Hopper's bed to be next to the fireplace. Jonathan tosses the sheet off.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Jonathan lays will down on the bed.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Nancy fills the fireplace with wood.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Nancy ties rope around Will's wrists and ankles, securing him to the bed.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Nancy, Joyce, and Jonathan set up heaters around the bed. They stand nearby, looking at him.

JONATHAN: Are you sure this is a good idea?

JOYCE: This thing has had Will long enough. Let's kill the son of a bitch.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Nancy lights a match and tosses it into the fireplace. Joyce and Jonathan turn the heaters on.

**EXT. HAWKINS LAB – NIGHT**

Hopper pulls up and turns his truck off. Hopper gets out of the truck and walks to the boot, opening it and looking inside. Eleven gets out of the truck and stands next to it, looking up at Hawkins Lab. Demodogs growl inside. Eleven looks nervous.

Flashback to #103. A training room in Hawkins Lab. A cat in a cage, snarling at Eleven.

**FLSHBCK – INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – NIGHT**

*Eleven is dragged down the hallway by guards.*

*ELEVEN: Papa!*

Flashback to #105. The Bath room. Eleven being lowered into the Bath.

Flashback to #106. The Bath room. Cracks form on the walls. People scream and run around.

Flashback to #105. The Bath. Eleven screaming inside the Bath.

**EXT. HAWKINS LAB – NIGHT**

Eleven turns as Hopper shuts the boot. He walks up to her, carrying a gun. They look up at Hawkins Lab. Demodogs growl inside.

Hopper: All right. You let me do the heavy lifting up front, all right? You save your strength till we're below.

Hopper looks at Eleven.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You okay?

Eleven doesn't say anything, instead walking towards Hawkins Lab. Hopper watches her for a few moments before following.

**EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT**

Billy's car speeds along, revving.

**INT. BILLY'S CAR**

Max drives, with Lucas sitting in the passenger seat giving her directions. Mike and Dustin sit in the backseat, with Steve slumped over in the seat between them. Steve slowly starts to come to. His face is bruised and bloody, and he looks disorientated. He has Band-Aids on his face, and Dustin holds an ice bag to his head. The sound of a liquid sloshing makes Steve look to his left, and he makes out a blurry can of gasoline. His eyes travel up to the person holding the gasoline can, finding a blurry Mike.

STEVE: Nancy?

Mike looks at Steve, confused. Steve groans, his hand going up to rub his eyes. Dustin pulls his hand away.

DUSTIN: (echoing) No, don't touch it.

Steve slowly turns his head to look at a blurry Dustin.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Hey, buddy...

Dustin shushes Steve.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): (echoing) It's okay. You put up a good fight. He kicked your ass, but you put up a good fight. Buddy, you're okay. You're okay.

Steve reaches a hand up to push the ice bag off his forehead, but Dustin puts it straight back on.

LUCAS: (echoing) Okay, you're gonna keep straight for a half a mile...

Steve looks at Lucas.

LUCAS (CONT'D): (echoing) Then make a left on Mount Sinai.

Lucas over at looks at Max. Steve follows Lucas' gaze, not recognising Max from behind.

STEVE: What's going on?

Max turns to look at Steve.

STEVE (CONT'D): Whoa, oh, my God!

DUSTIN: Just relax. She's driven before.

MIKE: Yeah, in a parking lot.

LUCAS: That counts.

STEVE: Oh, my God.

DUSTIN: They were gonna leave you behind.

STEVE: Oh, my God.

DUSTIN: I promised that you'd be cool, okay?

STEVE: Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. What's going on?

Max steps on the gas. Steve yells, freaking out.

STEVE (CONT'D): Oh, my God! No! Whoa! Stop the car. Slow down.

MIKE: I told you he'd freak out.

STEVE: Stop the car!

MAX: Everybody shut up! I'm trying to focus!

LUCAS: Oh, wait, that's Mount Sinai. Make a left.

MAX: What?

LUCAS: Make a turn left.

**EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT**

Max hits a mailbox as she tries to turn the car.

**INT. BILLY'S CAR**

Steve, Dustin, and Mike all scream. Lucas lets out an eagle-like scream.

**EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT**

The car speeds down the road.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Will is tied to the bed, sweating profusely. Nancy and Joyce stand beside the bed, Jonathan sitting beside it. The three of them have stripped down to their pants and undershirts, sweating. Will wakes up with a gasp, breathing heavily. Nancy, Joyce, and Jonathan look at him when they realise he's awake. Will starts to pull against his binds.

WILL: What's happening? It hurts.

Will groans as he flails.

WILL (CONT'D): It hurts! It hurts!

Jonathan stands up. Nancy grabs his hand.

WILL (CONT'D): It hurts! It hurts! Let me go! Let me go! It hurts!

Flashback to #202. The Byers lounge room. Joyce and Bob dancing to 'Islands in the Stream' by Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers.

WILL (CONT'D): It hurts! Let me go!

Joyce reaches down and turns up the heater closest to her. She walks around the room and turns the other heaters up.

WILL (CONT'D): Let me go! It hurts! It hurts!

Will screams. Nancy and Jonathan look upset.

JONATHAN: Mum.

JOYCE: No!

Joyce moves one of the heaters closer to Will. He writhes and screams. Jonathan can't watch, turning around and hugging Nancy, clutching her tightly. She holds him close.

WILL: Let me go! Let me go! Let me go!

**EXT. MERRILL FARM – NIGHT**

Billy's car drives over the sign that Joyce drove over the night before.

**EXT. MERRILL FARM – PUMPKIN PATCH – NIGHT**

Billy's car speeds towards the hole Hopper created and comes to a stop just outside.

**INT. BILLY'S CAR**

Steve yells.

STEVE: Hello!

DUSTIN: Whoa!

MIKE: Incredible.

MAX: I told you. Zoomer.

**EXT. MERRILL FARM – PUMPKIN PATCH – NIGHT**

The Kids get out of the car and run to the boot, putting on goggles and bandanas. Steve pulls himself out of the car, landing on the ground with a groan.

STEVE: Guys.

Steve pulls himself up and leans against the car.

STEVE (CONT'D): Oh, no. Guys.

Mike grabs the can of gasoline and some rope and starts walking towards the hole.

STEVE (CONT'D): Hey, where do you think you're going?

Mike bends down in front of the car and starts tying the rope to the bumper.

STEVE (CONT'D): What are you, deaf? Hello?

Max walks to the front of the car to help Mike.

STEVE (CONT'D): We are not going down there right now. I made myself clear. Hey, there's no chance we're going to that hole, all right?

Lucas walks to the front of the car.

STEVE (CONT'D): This ends right now!

Steve grabs Dustin's bag and throws it to the ground. He starts to walk away, but Dustin grabs his arm and pulls him back.

DUSTIN: Steve, you're upset. I get it.

Mike, Lucas, and Max walk into the hole.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): But the bottom line is, a party member requires assistance, and it is our duty to provide that assistance. Now I know you promised Nance that you would keep us safe...

Dustin reaches into the boot and pulls out Steve's backpack, bat included.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): So, keep us safe.

Dustin holds the bag out to Steve. Steve sighs before grabbing it.

#### **INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – NIGHT**

Mike, Dustin, Lucas, and Max are already inside. Mike looks at the map they drew up. A rope hangs through the hole, tied in place to Billy's car outside. Steve drops in through the hole, looking around.

STEVE: Holy shit.

MIKE: Uh...yeah, I'm pretty sure it's this way.

Mike looks down one of the tunnels.

DUSTIN: You're pretty sure, or you're certain?

MIKE: I'm 100% sure. Just follow me and you'll know.

Mike starts down the tunnel.

STEVE: Whoa, whoa, whoa. Hey, hey, hey, hey. I don't think so.

Mike turns around.

MIKE: What?

Steve walks up to Mike.

STEVE: Any of you little shits die down here, I'm getting the blame. Got it, dipshit?

Steve takes the map from Mike. He looks back at the others.

STEVE (CONT'D): From here on out, I'm leading the way. Come on, let's go.

Steve starts down the tunnel. The others start to follow.

STEVE (CONT'D): Come on. Hey, a little hustle.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – NIGHT**

An alarm blares. Hopper and Eleven walk into the hallway and walk down it, Hopper leading them with his gun aimed. Hopper turns into a stairwell. Eleven pauses to look back down the hallway before following Hopper.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – STAIRWELL – NIGHT**

Hopper and Eleven walk down the stairs. They stop on a platform when they spot blood on the stairs and handrail.

HOPPER: Stay here.

Hopper continues down the stairs while Eleven stays on the platform. Hopper discovers a bleeding Owens sitting against a wall one platform down from Eleven.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Oh, shit.

Hopper pulls off one of his guns before bending down beside Owens.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Hey, Doc.

Owens sighs. He has a wound on his leg.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Those suckers got you pretty good, huh?

Owens opens his mouth to say something.

HOPPER (CONT'D): It's okay, don't talk.

Hopper unzips his jacket. He then takes his belt off and uses it as a tourniquet around Owens' leg.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Don't talk. I got you. I got you. I got you.

Owens catches sight of Eleven, who has walked down to the landing. Hopper briefly looks behind him at her.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Oh, yeah, I've been meaning to tell you. This is Eleven. Eleven, Doc Owens. Doc Owens, Eleven. She's been staying with me for about a year and she's about to save our asses. Maybe when this is all said and done, maybe you could help her out, too, you know? Maybe you could help her lead, like, a normal life. One where she's not poked and prodded and...treated like some kind of lab rat, you know? I don't know, just a thought.

Hopper pulls the belt tight. Owens groans in pain.

HOPPER (CONT'D): But, uh...think about it.

Owens nods. Hopper reaches into his back pocket and pulls out a pistol, holding it out to Owens. Owens reluctantly takes it.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Don't go anywhere.

Owens chuckles softly. Hopper stands up, grabbing his gun and continuing down the stairs. Eleven follows.



**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – NIGHT**

Steve and the Kids turn a corner, looking around as they walk.

LUCAS: God.

MAX: What is this place?

STEVE: Guys, come on. Keep moving.

The group continues down the tunnels. Dustin pauses, looking up at a spore cluster on the roof.

DUSTIN: What the hell?

The spore cluster spits spores directly into Dustin's face. He backs away, screaming.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Shit!

Dustin falls to the ground, rolling around in an effort to get the spores away, screaming. He stands up and grabs his bag, attempting to run down the tunnel towards the others.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Help! Help! Help!

The others come back, having heard Dustin's screams.

MIKE: Dustin.

Dustin falls to the ground.

DUSTIN: Shit!

Max and Lucas try to help but don't know how.

LUCAS: Dustin!

MAX: Dustin!

Steve pushes to the front.

STEVE: What happened? What happened?

Dustin kneels on the ground, heaving.

DUSTIN: It's in my mouth! Some got in my mouth! Shit!

Dustin coughs a few times and then spits. The others stand back, worried but fearful. Dustin looks up at them, panting slightly.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): I'm okay.

The others drop their worried demeanours.

MAX: You serious?

STEVE: Very funny, man.

The others start to walk down the tunnel again.

STEVE (CONT'D): Nice. Very nice.

MAX: Jesus, what an idiot.

Dustin picks up his things and starts after the others.

DUSTIN: Hang on. Wait, wait.

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – HUB – NIGHT**

Steve and the Kids turn the corner and walk inside, staying at the edge as they look around.

STEVE: All right, Wheeler. I think we found your Hub.

The group shines their torches around.

MIKE: Let's drench it.

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – HUB – NIGHT**

Steve and the Kids work to douse the Hub. Max, Dustin, and Mike pour gasoline over the ground. Lucas sprays gasoline onto the roof.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Will writhes and screams.

WILL: It hurts!

Nancy, Joyce, and Jonathan watch as Will writhes and screams. Jonathan looks the most upset.

JONATHAN: It's not working. It's not working. Mum, are you listening to me?

JOYCE: Just wait!

JONATHAN: How much longer? Look...look at him!

JOYCE: Jonathan, just wait!

JONATHAN: You're killing him!

JOYCE: Just wait!

Jonathan walks forward and goes to turn the closest heater down. Joyce rushes forward to stop him.

JONATHAN: No!

JOYCE: No, leave it!

JONATHAN: Mum, you're killing him!

JOYCE: Leave it!

Nancy notices something on Will and pulls at Jonathan.

NANCY: Wait, Jonathan, Jonathan! His neck! His neck!

Joyce and Jonathan look over at Will to see the veins on his neck turning black. There's a screeching sound. Will convulses as the black travels up to his face. Nancy, Joyce, and Jonathan watch in horror. Will's right arm rips free of its bind, and he reaches over to untie his left arm. Joyce rushes forward and tries to stop him.

JOYCE: No, no, no, no.

Will starts to choke Joyce with his right arm, the screeching louder.

JONATHAN: Mum!

Joyce chokes. The black has almost entirely covered Will's face.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – NIGHT**

Hopper and Eleven turn the corner, finding themselves a few turns away from the Gate observation room. There's the faint sound of demodogs. Eleven starts to look scared.

HOPPER: Stay here.

Hopper walks down the hallway. Eleven breathes heavily. Hopper turns the corner and sees the Gate observation room in front of him, the door off its hinges. He puts his torch into his jacket and aims the gun with both hands. He starts to walk towards the Gate observation room. There's faint growling. Hopper pushes himself against the wall next to the door. He uses his pocket knife as a mirror to see into the Gate observation room, seeing that there are demodogs inside. He pulls back, taking a deep breath.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – NIGHT**

Eleven looks down the hallway that Hopper walked down. A determined look crosses her face.

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – HUB – NIGHT**

Steve and the Kids crouch at the edge of the Hub.

STEVE: All right, you guys ready?

MIKE: Yeah.

LUCAS: Ready.

MAX: Ready.

Steve reaches into his pocket and pulls out a lighter.

DUSTIN: Light her up.

Steve looks at Dustin as he flicks open the lighter, before he looks back at the Hub.

STEVE: I am in such deep shit.

Steve lights the lighter.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Will grunts as he chokes Joyce. Jonathan works to try and free Joyce. Nancy runs over to the fireplace and picks up the hot poker, looking regretful at what she's about to do. Joyce chokes for air. Nancy jabs the hot poker into Will's side. He screams, letting Joyce go. She falls backwards slightly, gasping for air.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – NIGHT**

Hopper stands against the wall beside the door.

HOPPER: One...two...all right.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM – NIGHT**

Hopper rounds the corner into the Gate observation room, aiming his gun up. The demodogs beside the pit look at him and roar with open mouths.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Will writhes and screams.

JOYCE: Get the hell out of my son!

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – HUB – NIGHT**

Steve throws the lighter into the middle of the Hub. It immediately catches fire, the fire spreading quickly. Vines screech and wave in the air. Steve and the Kids shield their eyes briefly.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Will writhes and screams. Joyce backs away slightly.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM – NIGHT**

The demodogs around the pit screech in pain. Hopper lowers the gun slightly, confused.

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – HUB – NIGHT**

The vines screech and wave in the air, lit on fire. Steve and the Kids turn around and start to run down the tunnel.

STEVE: Go, go, go!

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

An unhuman shriek emits from Will. Jonathan stares in horror.

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – HUB – NIGHT**

The vines screech and wave in the air, lit on fire.

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – NIGHT**

Steve and the Kids run down the tunnels towards their exit.

STEVE (CONT'D): Let's go, let's go!

DUSTIN: Oh, my God. Oh, my God. Oh, my God. Oh, my God.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

The demodogs around the pit start jumping into the pit, jumping down the walls.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Will screams. A black shadow starts exiting Will, forming an almost tornado shape above him. Nancy, Joyce, and Jonathan look at it in horror. The shadow flies towards the door and breaks through.

**EXT. HOPPER'S CABIN – FRONT YARD – NIGHT**

The shadow breaks through the door and flies up to the sky. Nancy runs out and watches at the shadow disappears. She sighs.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Jonathan pulls the plug on the heaters, turning them off. Joyce unties Will's binds, crying.

JOYCE: Will, baby.

Jonathan kneels beside the bed. Will's unconscious. Joyce shakes him.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Will. Will. Please, Will. Will.

JONATHAN: Come on, buddy.

JOYCE: Please.

JONATHAN: Come on.

JOYCE: Can you hear me?

JONATHAN: Come on.

JOYCE: Please. Will.

Will slowly opens his eyes. He looks dazed. Joyce and Jonathan breathe sighs of relief.

WILL: Mum?

JOYCE: Oh, honey.

Joyce pulls Will up for a hug. He clutches her tightly, crying.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Oh, God.

Jonathan hugs them. The three of them stay there, hugging each other tight and crying with relief.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM – NIGHT**

Hopper stares into the Gate room. Eleven slowly walks into the room, staring into the Gate room as she walks up to Hopper. They share a glance when she stands next to him, before they look back into the Gate room.

JONATHAN (ON RADIO): Chief, are you there? Chief, do you copy?

Hopper pulls his radio out.

HOPPER: Yeah, I copy.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Jonathan stands by the radio, panting.

JONATHAN: Close it.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM – NIGHT**

Hopper lowers his radio. He and Eleven look at each other before looking back into the Gate room.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

The elevator slowly lowers, Hopper and Eleven inside. Eleven takes deep breaths as she looks at the Gate. She reaches over and grabs Hopper's hand.

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – NIGHT**

Steve and the Kids run through the tunnels towards their exit.

STEVE: Oh, my God! Oh, my God! Oh, my God! Oh, my God!

Steve pauses briefly to look at the map before continuing.

STEVE (CONT'D): This way, this way!

Mike trips and falls down with a grunt. Vines snake around his leg.

MIKE: Help! Help! Help! Help!

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Hopper presses the button to stop the elevator. It swings slightly before stilling. Hopper and Eleven look at each other before looking at the Gate. Eleven lets go of Hopper's hand, and he backs away slightly. Eleven takes a deep breath before holding her hand up and using her powers to try and close the Gate. It pulses brightly, and a screeching fills the air. The Mind Flayer can be seen behind the Gate, rising up and looking at them. Eleven's eyes widen. Hopper readies his gun. The screeching gets louder.

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – NIGHT**

Mike struggles against the vines.

MIKE (CONT'D): Help! Help!

The others run back to Mike.

LUCAS: Hold on!

DUSTIN: Steve, pull him out.

Dustin, Lucas, and Max try to pull Mike away.

STEVE: Everybody back! Back!

Steve grabs his bat and starts swinging it down onto the vines, grunting. They screech. He gets through the vine, and it lets go of Mike. The others pull Mike back and help him up.

DUSTIN: Shit. Shit. Shit. You okay?

LUCAS: You good?

DUSTIN: Guys, we gotta go, we gotta go!

Screeching makes everyone jump and back away from the demodog that has appeared in the tunnel. Dustin stays at the front of the group, recognising the demodog.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Dart.

Dart chitters. Dustin slowly starts to walk towards him to the protests of the others.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Shh. Stop.

MAX: Dustin, get back.

DUSTIN: Trust me, please.

The others stop protesting but still look worried. Dart slowly walks towards Dustin, who pulls down his bandana and lifts his goggles.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Hey. It's me, it's me. It's just your friend, it's Dustin.

Dustin bends down in front of Dart, who cautiously walks towards him.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): It's Dustin, all right? You remember me?

Dart chitters.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Will you let us pass?

Dart opens his mouth and roars. The others jump back.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Okay, okay, I'm sorry. I'm sorry about the storm cellar. That was a pretty douchebaggery thing to do. You hungry? Yeah?

Dustin slides his backpack off.

LUCAS: (quietly) He's insane.

MIKE: (quietly) Don't.

STEVE: (quietly) Shut up.

Dustin pulls a 3 Musketeers bar out of his bag and holds it up.

DUSTIN: I've got your favourite. See? Nougat.

Dart chitters. Dustin unwraps the bar and breaks a piece off, setting it down on the ground.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Look at that. Yummy. Here, all right?

Dart starts to eat.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eat up, buddy.

Dustin gestures to the others to go past.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Come on. Come on.

The others walk towards Dustin.

MIKE: (whispering) Let's go.

The others quickly go past Dart.

DUSTIN: There's plenty. I've got more.

Dustin sets the rest of the bar down on the ground before standing up and sliding his bag on. He walks past Dart but turns around to look at him, pulling his goggles down. Dart glances at the group before going back to eating.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Goodbye, buddy.

Dustin pulls his bandana up and turns back to the others. They start down the tunnels again.

STEVE: Let's go, let's go!

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Eleven holds her hand out, using her powers to try and close the Gate. The Mind Flayer can be seen behind it. It screeches. Eleven closes her eyes.

Cut to black.

KALI (O.S.): I want you to find something from your past...

**FLASHBACK – EXT. KALI'S GANG'S WAREHOUSE – DAY**

*Kali and Eleven stand in the train yard. Eleven holds her hand out, using her powers to pull the train towards them.*

*KALI (CONT'D): Something that angers you. Now channel it.*

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Eleven holds her hand out with her eyes closed, using her powers to try and close the Gate.

Flashback to #103. A hallway in Hawkins Lab. Eleven is dragged down the hallway by orderlies.

**FLASHBACK – INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – DAY**

*Eleven is thrown into the room by orderlies.*

*ELEVEN (O.S.): Papa!*

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Eleven holds her hand out with her eyes closed, using her powers to try and close the Gate. Eleven opens her eyes. The Gate slowly starts to close. Her hand shakes with effort as the Gate starts to close faster. Hopper watches in shock and awe. The Mind Flayer screeches.

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – NIGHT**

Steve and the Kids run through the tunnels to their exit.

STEVE: Come on, let's go! Let's go!

The tunnels suddenly shake violently, causing everyone to lose their balance.

STEVE (CONT'D): Jesus!

As the tunnels stop shaking, a shrieking can be heard from the tunnels.

MAX: What was that?

Screeching from the tunnels behind them makes everyone turn around.

MIKE: They're coming. Run! Run!

Everyone starts running.

STEVE: Let's go! Let's go!



DUSTIN: Come on, Mike! Move, Mike!

Steve and the Kids round a corner and see the rope hanging into the hole.

LUCAS: There! There!

STEVE: Come on! Let's go!

They run up to the rope.

STEVE (CONT'D): Go, go, go! Let's go! Come on! Come on!

Steve helps Max up. She grunts.

STEVE (CONT'D): Come on! Come on, hurry up! Come on!

**EXT. MERRILL FARM – PUMPKIN PATCH – NIGHT**

Max uses the rope to pull herself out of the hole, panting.

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – NIGHT**

Steve helps Lucas up.

STEVE (CONT'D): Come on, come on, come on!

**EXT. MERRILL FARM – PUMPKIN PATCH – NIGHT**

Lucas uses the rope to pull himself out of the hole.

MAX: Lucas, come on. Grab my hand. Grab my hand.

Max helps Lucas out of the hole.

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – NIGHT**

Steve helps Mike up.

STEVE: Take his hand!

**EXT. MERRILL FARM – PUMPKIN PATCH – NIGHT**

Mike uses the rope to pull himself out of the hole. Max and Lucas help him out of it.

LUCAS: Come on. Pull him, pull him.

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – NIGHT**

Demodogs screech in the distance. Steve gives up on trying to get out and reaches for his bat.

STEVE: Oh, shit.

Steve stands with his bat at the ready, protecting Dustin.

STEVE (CONT'D): Here.

Steve and Dustin look down the tunnel, waiting for the demodogs. Their shadows appear first, running and screeching. Mike and Lucas hold their hands out ready for Dustin.

MIKE and LUCAS (IN UNISON): Dustin!

MIKE: Come on!

LUCAS: Come on! Come on!

The demodogs come racing around the corner, running and screeching. Dustin cowers.

DUSTIN: No!

Mike and Lucas gasp. The demodogs run around Steve and Dustin. They dodge them slightly in confusion. Steve grabs Dustin and pulls him close.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): This is...

Steve and Dustin dodge as the demodogs run around them. They look down the tunnel where the demodogs have gone. Mike has a realisation.

MIKE: Eleven.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Eleven holds her hand out, using her powers to close the Gate. Hopper watches in shock and awe. Demodogs start to run up the sides of the pit. Hopper notices and aims his gun. The elevator shakes when a demodog lands on the roof, sticking its head over the side and roaring. Hopper fires at it, making the demodog screech and fall off. Hopper looks down into the pit to try and see it. Another demodog lands on the elevator. Hopper fires at it and it falls off. Hopper looks around the pit to see a large number of demodogs climbing the walls.

HOPPER: Oh, shit!

Hopper starts firing at the demodogs on the walls. They fall off when fired at. Hopper pulls the trigger on the gun, but it clicks with an empty barrel. He quickly drops the gun and grabs his other one, using it to fire at the demodogs. Eleven breathes quickly as she closes the Gate, panting with effort. She's bleeding from her nose and ears, and the skin under her eyes is turning grey.

**FLASHBACK – INT. KALI'S GANG'S WAREHOUSE – TOP FLOOR BEDROOM – NIGHT**

*Eleven backs away from Kali's illusion of Brenner.*

*BRENNER: You have a wound, Eleven.*

Flashback to #207. The operating room in Hawkins Lab. Brenner removes his mask.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Eleven breathes quickly as she closes the Gate, panting with effort.

**FLASHBACK – INT. KALI'S GANG'S WAREHOUSE – TOP FLOOR BEDROOM – NIGHT**

*Eleven backs away from Kali's illusion of Brenner.*

*BRENNER (CONT'D): A terrible wound.*

Flashback to #106. The Void. Eleven touches the Demogorgon's back. It turns around and roars at her.

Flashback to #106. The Bath room. Cracks form on the walls. People scream and run around.

**FLASHBACK – EXT. SATTLER QUARRY – HIGHER AREA – DAY**

*Eleven lays on the ground, looking up at Mike and Dustin.*

*ELEVEN: The Gate...I opened it.*

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Eleven breathes quickly as she closes the Gate, panting with effort. One of the Mind Flayer's tendrils snakes out of the Gate and starts moving towards Eleven.

Flashback to #108. The Hawkins Middle science classroom. Eleven walks towards the Demogorgon.

BRENNER (O.S.): And it's festering.

Eleven breathes quickly as she closes the Gate, panting with effort.

**FLASHBACK – INT. KALI'S GANG'S WAREHOUSE – TOP FLOOR BEDROOM – NIGHT**

*Eleven sits in a chair. Kali's illusion of Brenner bends down in front of her.*

*BRENNER (CONT'D): And it will grow.*

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Eleven breathes quickly as she closes the Gate, panting with effort. The Mind Flayer's tendrils snakes towards Eleven.

**FLASHBACK – INT. KALI'S GANG'S WAREHOUSE – TOP FLOOR BEDROOM – NIGHT**

*Eleven sits in a chair. Kali's illusion of Brenner bends down in front of her.*

*BRENNER (CONT'D): Spread.*

Flashback to #207. The rainbow room. Terry is pulled out of the room by guards, screaming.

**FLASHBACK – INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – DAY**

*Eleven is dragged down the hallway by orderlies.*

*ELEVEN: Papa!*

Flashback to #207. A room in Hawkins Lab. Terry being electrocuted.

Flashback to #105. The Bath. Eleven screaming inside the Bath.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Eleven breathes quickly as she closes the Gate, panting with effort. The Mind Flayer's tendrils snakes towards Eleven.

**FLASHBACK – INT. KALI'S GANG'S WAREHOUSE – TOP FLOOR BEDROOM – NIGHT**

*Eleven sits in a chair. Kali's illusion of Brenner bends down in front of her.*

*BRENNER: And eventually, it will kill you.*

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Eleven breathes quickly as she closes the Gate, panting with effort. The Mind Flayer's tendrils snakes towards Eleven.

Flashback to #204. Eleven's room. Eleven in the corner, screaming.

Flashback to #207. Kali and Eleven in the train yard behind the warehouse. Eleven screaming as she moves the train.

**FLSHBCK – EXT. KALI'S GANG'S WAREHOUSE – NIGHT**

*Eleven runs down the alley as the gang's van pulls away.*

*KALI: Jane!*

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Eleven breathes quickly as she closes the Gate, panting with effort. The Mind Flayer's tendrils snakes towards Eleven. She holds her other hand out, now using both hands to close the Gate. She screams. She starts to lift off the ground. The Mind Flayer's tendril appears to hit an invisible wall and spread out, unable to reach the elevator. Hopper turns around to look at Eleven.

**EXT. MERRILL FARM – PUMPKIN PATCH – NIGHT**

Steve and the Kids stand outside the hole. They turn around as Billy's car's headlights shine brightly, making them shield their eyes.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Will sits on the bed, looking weak. Joyce and Jonathan sit on the bed beside him, comforting him. Nancy sits on a chair in front of them. They look up and around as the lights in the cabin shine brightly.

**EXT. HOPPER'S CABIN – FRONT YARD – NIGHT**

The lights inside shine brightly.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Eleven screams as she uses her powers to push the Mind Flayer's tendril back and close the Gate. The Mind Flayer's tendril is pushed back into the Gate right as the Gate closes. Eleven drops.

Cut to black.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Demodogs start to drop from the walls, their connection to the Mind Flayer severed.

**EXT. MERRILL FARM – PUMPKIN PATCH – NIGHT**

Billy's car's headlights dim. Steve and the Kids drop their hands, confused but hopeful.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

The lights dim. Nancy, Joyce, and Jonathan look around, confused. Will looks relieved, a small smile crossing his face.

**INT. HAWKINS TUNNEL SYSTEM – NIGHT**

Dart lays on the ground, chittering. He dies.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – LOWER GATE ROOM – NIGHT**

Hopper and Eleven kneel on the elevator's floor, with Hopper holding Eleven as she cries.

HOPPER: You did good, kid. You did so good.

The camera slowly pans away from the elevator, which swings slightly in the air. Hopper and Eleven hold each other.

Cut to black.

**EXT. HAWKINS LAB – DAY**

Wooden doors have been boarded up over the front of the main doors, restricted signs on the front. A guard closes the lock on the chains wrapped through the door handles, before walking away and hopping into a buggy. The buggy drives off.

**ONE MONTH LATER**

**EXT. HAWKINS LAB – DAY**

The buggy joins a convoy of military vehicles leaving.

ANNETTE PHILLIPS (O.S.): Since the release of the incendiary tape...

**EXT. HAWKINS LAB – PERIMETER FENCE – DAY**

Murray sits in a chair outside, next to his parked van. He watches as the military vehicles drive out of the facility.

ANNETTE PHILLIPS (CONT'D)(O.S.): The once quiet town of Hawkins, Indiana, has spent time in a place it never expected. The national spotlight.

Murray chuckles and salutes to the vehicles driving past. A guard in a buggy holds up his middle fingers as they go past.

ANNETTE PHILLIPS (CONT'D)(O.S.): Under mounting pressure, several high-ranking members from the US Department of Energy...

**EXT. ROANE COUNTY CEMETERY – DAY**

A small crowd gathers for Barb's funeral. Mr. and Mrs. Holland, Nancy, Jonathan, Steve, Ted, and Karen are among those who attend.

ANNETTE PHILLIPS (CONT'D)(O.S.): Have admitted involvement in the death and cover-up of Hawkins residence Barbara Holland, who died due to exposure to an experimental chemical asphyxiant, which had leaked from the grounds of the lab.

**INT. HIDEAWAY – EATING AREA – DAY**

Annette Phillips reports on the story on the news.

ANNETTE PHILLIPS (CONT'D): We sent our own April Kline to Hawkins to speak to residents, residents who told us they thought they lived in a safe town. The kind of town where, they say, nothing ever happens.

Hopper opens the door and walks in, unzipping his jacket as he heads towards one of the booths. He pulls his jacket off and slides into the booth across from Owens, who sits with a sandwich and chips in front of him.

OWENS: Chief-o.

HOPPER: How's the leg?

OWENS: Better. Pretty sure my football career is over.

Hopper and Owens chuckle.

OWENS (CONT'D): Hey, want some of this? No way I'm gonna finish it.

Owens grabs half of the sandwich and pushes the plate towards Hopper. Hopper pushes it back.

HOPPER: No. I'm, uh...on a diet.

OWENS: Well, you're a better man than me. Hey, I got a little something for you.

Owens reaches into his jacket pocket. Hopper sighs. Owens pulls an envelope out, sliding it across the table to Hopper. Hopper picks the envelope up and opens it, pulling the letter inside out slightly. It's a birth certificate, labelling Eleven as Jane Hopper.

OWENS (CONT'D): Congratulations, Pops.

Hopper looks up at Owens in confusion.

HOPPER: I thought-

OWENS: Sometimes I impress even myself.

Hopper folds the envelope up and puts it in his back pocket.

OWENS (CONT'D): Still, I'd let things cool off for a while, if I were you.

HOPPER: How long is a while?

OWENS: Want to be safe? I'd give it a year.

HOPPER: A year?

Hopper grabs the other half of Owens' sandwich and takes a big bite.

HOPPER (CONT'D): What about one night out?

OWENS: One night?

HOPPER: Yeah. How risky would that be?

OWENS: What's so important about one night?

#### **INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Teachers walk around, setting up the room for the Snow Ball. Mr. Clarke climbs onto a ladder and fixes the top of the 'Snow Ball '84' sign before climbing down.

#### **INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – NIGHT**

A drawing of Bob in a superhero costume sits on the fridge using a magnet.

JOYCE (O.S.): Yeah, you got it. See?

WILL (O.S.): Mum!

JOYCE (O.S.): Wow!

Joyce laughs.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Joyce teaches Will to dance. Jonathan records them using Bob's JVC.

WILL: Do you always have to be filming everything?

JONATHAN: No, no. Just the good stuff.

Jonathan chuckles.

WILL: Are you sure people still dance like this?

JOYCE: Oh, yeah. It's just what's happening.

WILL: Is it what's happening?

JONATHAN: Yeah, yeah, it's what's happening.

Will spins Joyce.

**INT. WHEELER HOUSE – FOYER – NIGHT**

Mike stands on the steps, unenthusiastic. Karen takes a photo. The polaroid drops to the ground, and she bends down to pick it up.

KAREN: Oh, wait.

MIKE: All right, that's enough.

Karen stands up.

KAREN: One more, okay? Just one more.

MIKE: Why?

KAREN: You look so handsome.

MIKE: Mum!

KAREN: Mike.

Karen takes a photo.

**INT. SINCLAIR HOUSE – LUCAS' BEDROOM – NIGHT**

Lucas stands in front of the mirror, smiling.

LUCAS: Hey...wanna dance?

Lucas shakes his head.

LUCAS (CONT'D): No.

Lucas smiles at the mirror.

LUCAS (CONT'D): We should, you know, get out there, like, do our thing...stop.

Lucas looks disappointed in himself. He points his finger at the mirror, about to say something, but nothing comes out. He rubs his cheeks and shakes his head, before he smiles at the mirror again.

LUCAS: I love this song. You?

ERICA (O.S.): Yeah, I love it.

Lucas turns to see Erica standing in the doorway, a fake smile on her face.

ERICA (CONT'D): But not as much as I love you, Lukey.

Lucas stomps over to the door.

LUCAS: Get out of my room!

Lucas slams the door closed.

**INT. HARGROVE HOUSE – MAX'S ROOM – NIGHT**

Max sits in front of the mirror. Susan helps do her hair.

MAX: Ow, ow. That hurts.

SUSAN: It's gonna be worth it. Promise.

Billy walks past Max's room and stands in the doorway, looking in at her. She looks over at him and glares. He walks away. Max looks back at the mirror.

SUSAN (CONT'D): See? Pretty.

Max sighs.

**INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Claudia sits on the couch, holding Tews.

DUSTIN (O.S.): Son of a bitch!

Dustin storms into the lounge room and walks through to the kitchen.

**INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – KITCHEN – NIGHT**

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Son of a bitch!

CLAUDIA: Where did you see it last?

DUSTIN: Right here, where I put it.

CLAUDIA: What's in there that's so important anyway? You look fabulous, baby.

Dustin moves a box of cat food aside to find a paper bag. He picks it up.

DUSTIN: Got it.

**INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Dustin runs past Claudia and leaves the room. The doorbell rings.

CLAUDIA: That's your ride. Dusty!



**INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN’S ROOM – NIGHT**

Dustin opens the paper bag and pulls out a can of Farrah Fawcett hairspray. He takes the lid off and walks over to his mirror, taking a deep breath.

DUSTIN: Okay.

Dustin starts spraying.

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE GYM – NIGHT**

Steve’s car drives up.

**INT. STEVE’S CAR**

STEVE: All right, buddy, here we are.

Steve and Dustin look through the doors from the car. Dustin takes a deep breath.

STEVE (CONT’D): So, remember, once you get in there...

Dustin looks at Steve and nods.

DUSTIN: Pretend like I don’t care.

STEVE: You don’t care.

DUSTIN: I don’t care.

STEVE: There you go. You’re learning, my friend. You’re learning.

Dustin pulls the rear-view mirror down slightly to look at himself.

STEVE (CONT’D): Hey.

DUSTIN: What?

STEVE: Come on.

Steve fixes the rear-view mirror.

STEVE (CONT’D): You look great, okay? You look...you look great. Okay? Now you’re gonna go in there...

DUSTIN: Yeah.

STEVE: Look like a million bucks.

DUSTIN: Yeah.

STEVE: And you’re gonna slay ‘em dead.

DUSTIN: Like a lion.

Dustin purrs. Steve makes a face.

STEVE: Yeah, don’t do that, okay?

DUSTIN: Okay.

Steve holds his hand out.

STEVE: Good luck.

Dustin grabs Steve's hand. They nod at each other. Dustin opens the door and gets out.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – FOYER – NIGHT**

'Twist Of Fate' by Olivia Newton-John plays from the speakers inside the gym. Dustin walks in and stops, taking a deep breath. He walks up to the sign in table, where Mr. Clarke sits. Mr. Clarke smiles.

MR. CLARKE: Looking very snazzy tonight, sir.

DUSTIN: Thank you, my lord.

**INT. STEVE'S CAR**

Steve smiles as he watches Dustin. His gaze moves slightly, and he spots Nancy inside, who smiles as she serves punch. Steve sighs and drives off.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Dustin opens the door and walks inside, looking around. 'Twist Of Fate' by Olivia Newton-John plays from the speakers, and students dance along. Dustin fixes his jacket and takes a deep breath before heading further into the gym. He gives Nancy a small salute as he passes the punch table.

DUSTIN: Hey, Nance.

NANCY: Hey.

A student walks up to the punch table.

STUDENT: What's in this?

Nancy pours a cup and hands it to the student.

NANCY: Pure fuel.

The student takes the cup and walks away, looking at the punch inside in confusion. Nancy looks across the gym at Jonathan, who's taking the student formal photos. He looks over at her as a group leaves and smiles. She smiles back.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Dustin walks up to the table where Mike, Will, Lucas, and Max. He does a spin. They stand up.

MIKE: Holy shit. What happened to you?

DUSTIN: What do you mean, "what happened"?

MIKE: What?

LUCAS: Dude.

MAX: Your hair.

Lucas reaches up to touch Dustin's hair.

LUCAS: Is there a bird nesting in there?

Dustin pulls Lucas' hands away.

DUSTIN: No, what do you mean? What do you mean, "what's wrong with my hair"? There's no bird nesting in here, asshole. Okay? I worked hard.

'Time After Time' by Cyndi Lauper starts playing. They turn around to see everyone on the dance floor pairing up to slow dance. Lucas takes a deep breath and turns to Max.

LUCAS: Max...

Max looks at Lucas.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Hey. Um, it's nice, right? You want to, um...

The others look at Lucas and Max.

LUCAS (CONT'D): You want to, like...you know? Like, just you and me?

MAX: Are you trying to ask me to dance, stalker?

LUCAS: No. Of course not. Unless you want to.

Max chuckles.

MAX: So smooth. Come on.

Max pulls Lucas onto the dance floor. Mike, Will, and Dustin watch them go. Mike looks unamused, Will looks happy, and Dustin looks sad. Max puts her arms around Lucas's neck, prompting him to put his hands on her hips as they start dancing.

GIRL (O.S.): Hey, Zombie Boy.

Mike and Will turn slightly to see a girl standing in front of them, looking at Will.

GIRL (CONT'D): Do you want to dance?

Will looks at Mike.

WILL: Um...I don't...

Mike gives Will a "go on" tap.

WILL (CONT'D): I mean...I mean, yeah. Sure.

GIRL: Cool.

Will walks onto the dance floor with the girl, near to Lucas and Max. The pair starts to dance awkwardly. Mike and Dustin watch the two couples dance, but it's clear that Dustin is focused on Max. He looks away from Max and over at a small group of girls at the edge of the dance floor, who are more interested in chatting than dancing. Dustin fixes his jacket and lets out an exhale.

DUSTIN: Wish me luck, Mike. I'm going in.

Dustin clicks his tongue at Mike before walking away and towards the group of girls. Mike gives him a confused look but watches.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Stacy.

Dustin stands at the edge of the group of girls, looking at Stacy. None of them even acknowledge him, too busy chatting. He clears his throat.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Stacy.

STACY: He just broke up with Jennifer.

DUSTIN: Stacy.

STACY: Plus he's, like, not my type.

Dustin clears his throat again.

DUSTIN: Stacy.

The group of girls stop chatting and look at him.

STACY: Yeah?

Dustin clears his throat. He holds out his hand.

DUSTIN: Shall we?

STACY: Um, no, thanks.

Stacy chuckles. The girls laugh as they walk away. Dustin watches as they go. He spots a pair of girls chatting, taking a deep breath before walking over to them. They spot him coming and immediately walk away.

GIRL 2: Oh, my God.

Dustin stops walking. He turns and looks around the dance floor.

#### **INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Nancy smiles as she hands a cup of punch to a student. Her smile fades when she catches sight of Dustin on the other side of the gym. He's standing alone, looking around for someone to dance with. He starts to turn and walk away.

#### **INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Dustin sits on the bleachers, quietly crying to himself. Nancy walks up to him.

NANCY: Hey.

Dustin looks up and sees Nancy. He quickly wipes his eyes.

DUSTIN: Hey.

Nancy holds her hand out.

NANCY: Wanna dance?

DUSTIN: What?

Nancy grabs Dustin's hand and pulls him towards the dance floor.

NANCY: Come on. Let's go.

Nancy pulls Dustin onto the dance floor. Dustin looks around, wondering if anyone is going to be amazed by seeing him dancing with Nancy Wheeler. Nancy grabs Dustin's hands and sets them on her waist.

NANCY (CONT'D): Here. Mmm-hmm.

Nancy puts her hands on Dustin's shoulders. Dustin stares at Nancy with wide eyes. She pulls him a little closer.

NANCY (CONT'D): Closer.

Dustin gives a half smile. Nancy pulls him a little closer again.

NANCY (CONT'D): A little closer. Okay.

In the corner of the gym, Stacy and her friends notice Dustin dancing with Nancy.

NANCY (CONT'D): Now feel the music. The rhythm. Start to move to it.

Nancy and Dustin start to sway. Nancy smiles.

NANCY (CONT'D): Yeah. There.

DUSTIN: Good?

NANCY: That's good. Yeah.

Dustin smiles.

DUSTIN: Okay.

NANCY: You know, out of all of my brother's friends, you're my favourite.

Dustin grins.

NANCY (CONT'D): You've always been my favourite.

DUSTIN: Really?

NANCY: Yeah.

Nancy looks over at Stacy and her friends. They avoid Nancy's eyes. Dustin glances at them.

NANCY (CONT'D): Girls this age are dumb. But give them a few years, and they'll wise up. And, uh, you're gonna drive them nuts.

DUSTIN: You think so?

NANCY: Oh, I know so.

Nancy chuckles. Dustin grins. They dance to the music.

#### **EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE GYM – NIGHT**

Joyce stands against the side of her car. Hopper walks up to her.

HOPPER: Hey.

JOYCE: Hey.

HOPPER: Thought I might find you out here.

JOYCE: Will wanted me to give him some space, so...I'm giving him a few feet.

Joyce chuckles. Hopper pulls out a box of cigarettes and holds them up.

HOPPER: What do you say?

Hopper tries to pull a cigarette out.

HOPPER (CONT'D): I'm pretty sure that Mr. Cooper retired in the '70s, so...

Hopper looks around as he pulls a cigarette out, putting it in his mouth before moving to stand against the side of the car next to Joyce.

HOPPER (CONT'D): We might be okay.

Hopper lights the cigarette and takes an inhale before passing it to Joyce.

JOYCE: (softly) Give me that.

Hopper exhales. Joyce takes an inhale and hands the cigarette to Hopper, a slightly confused look on her face. She coughs. A small smile crosses Hopper's face.

HOPPER: How are you holding up?

JOYCE: You know.

HOPPER: Yeah. That feeling never goes away.

Hopper takes an inhale of the cigarette.

HOPPER (CONT'D): It is true what they say, you know. Every day it does get a little easier.

Hopper hands the cigarette to Joyce. She takes an inhale, unable to hide her saddened expression. Hopper puts his arm around Joyce and pulls her close.

#### **EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE GYM – NIGHT**

'Every Breath You Take' by The Police plays. Mike sits at the table alone. The door to the gym opens, and Mike looks up to see Eleven walk inside. He stands up. Eleven looks around for Mike. She smiles when she spots him.

#### **INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Mike and Eleven meet in the middle of the room, off to the side.

MIKE: You look beautiful.

Eleven smiles.

MIKE (CONT'D): Do you wanna dance?

ELEVEN: I don't know how.

MIKE: I don't either. Do you want to figure it out?

Eleven nods. Mike takes Eleven's hand and pulls her onto the dance floor.

MIKE (CONT'D): Like this.

Mike takes Eleven's hands and puts them on his shoulders. He puts his hands on her waist.

MIKE (CONT'D): Yeah, like that.

Eleven smiles as she and Mike sway to the music.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Nancy and Dustin smile as they sway to the music.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Will smiles as he dances with the girl.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Lucas and Max smile as they sway to the music.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Nancy and Dustin bob their heads as they dance, smiling.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Eleven smiles as she dances with Mike.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Max kisses Lucas, surprising him. He smiles at her, and she smiles back. She puts her head on his shoulder.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Mike and Eleven kiss. Eleven smiles after they pull away. She puts her forehead against his.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT**

Students dance along to the music.

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE GYM – NIGHT**

The camera starts to tilt down to the ground. 'Every Breath You Take' by The Police continues to play but because distorted.

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE GYM – UPSIDE DOWN**

The camera tilts up from the ground to make the school level. 'Every Breath You Take' by The Police continues to play, but it's distorted and faint. Red lightning flashes, and we see the Mind Flayer looming over the school.

**CUT TO TITLE CARD. STRANGER THINGS 2.**

**END EPISODE.**

**END SEASON TWO.**